

Appendix B: Technical Notes on Randomization Procedures

We used computerized, permuted, stratified block randomization (65). The random allocation procedure was generated using the *ralloc* program in STATA MP 11.2. This program provides a sequence of treatments randomly permuted in blocks of constant or varying size with the ability to stratify the allocation. For the current study, equal blocks of two were used to minimize the risk of potential imbalance in the treatment arms, and the allocation was stratified by site. Prior to any study recruitment, the sequence was generated by the first author (SEC) and placed on ordered cards by the data manager (GH), which were concealed until the point of each individual randomization by onsite research coordinators.